



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

August 2, 2010

Mr. Steve Santler, Building Inspector  
City of Harvard  
201 West Diggins Street  
P.O. Box 310  
Harvard, IL 60033

**Re: Verizon Wireless Monopole Tower, Equipment Shelter, and Access Road Improvement -  
Harvard  
Endangered Species Consultation Program  
Project Number(s): 1100280  
County: McHenry**

Dear Mr. Santler:

The Department received a submission from EBI Consulting, via the Department's Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT), on behalf of the City of Harvard, regarding this project in Section 15, Township 46 North, Range 6 East for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The project, which is located south, off of IL 173, and east of Alden Road, involves the construction of a 150' high monopole tower, equipment shelter, and utility H-frame. Verizon also plans to improve an access road from an existing access road in the northern area of the parcel. The project site is directly south of **Alden Sedge Meadow Illinois Natural Area Inventory Site** and is also south of an extensive set of recent records for the State-listed endangered **Blanding's Turtle**, *Emydoidea blandingii*.

The Department has completed its review of the project and determined that the action may have an adverse impact on the Blanding's Turtle. To minimize potential impacts to this protected resource, the Department recommends the following measures be implemented by Verizon and incorporated in Harvard's project authorization.

## Blanding's Turtles

1. Work crews and on-site personnel should be educated and informed about Blanding's Turtles before any work begins. Photos (both adult and juvenile) of the turtle should be distributed and a site management plan for responding to encounters with these turtles should be discussed at the preconstruction site meeting. If a turtle is encountered on site, inform crews to immediately stop construction in the surrounding area and contact the District Heritage Biologist, Brad Semel (815/675-2386 ext. 317) and McHenry County Conservation District (815/653-2297) - keeping in mind it is a criminal act to handle a listed species.

If a Blanding's Turtle is encountered, Incidental Take Authorization from the Department's Office of Resource Conservation may be needed, which would result in a Conservation Management Plan for the species.

Personnel on site should watch the turtle until the proper authority arrives to alleviate the situation, keeping at a respectable distance. If the turtle moves, crews should mark the spot they first saw the turtle and the last spot it was seen.

2. The area may contain an unknown nesting site or the route to a nesting site. In this instance, transiting turtles are the main concern. Limiting work to between October 15 and March 15, when this species is likely hibernating, may prevent construction activities from crushing or injuring juvenile or adult turtles.
3. If work cannot be limited to the recommended time frame, exclusionary (silt) fencing should be installed and in place, from the end of March and remain until the end of October, to prevent turtles from entering the construction areas. Daily inspections by qualified personnel should occur for the first two weeks and then be maintained weekly throughout the project timeframe to ensure the exclusionary fencing has been properly installed (dug into the ground) and to check if any turtles are present on either side of the fence.
4. If work involves having to use culverts under the access road, flat-bottom culverts are preferred because they are more turtle friendly than the round ones; Culverts should also be oversized (at least twice as wide as the normal width of open water) to assist with turtle movements.
5. Trenches can trap turtles (and other reptiles & amphibians), therefore trenches and excavations should be routinely inspected throughout the day. Trenches should also be inspected before being backfilled, covered at the end of the work day, and returned to original grade when project is done.

Consultation on the part of the Department is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), Harvard must notify the Department of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether they will:


- Allow the action to proceed as originally planned;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify which measures if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resources review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected species are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this project review.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathi Davis". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Kathi Davis  
Division of Ecosystems and Environment  
Impact Assessment Section  
Office of Realty & Environmental Planning  
217-785-5500

enclosure

cc: Mike Redmer, USFWS-Barrington  
Brad Semel, IDNR/Region II/Natural Heritage  
Ray Eisbrener, IDNR/Region II/Wildlife  
Giovani Del Rivero, EBI Consulting  
Elizabeth Kessler & Sue Hayden, McHenry County Conservation District  
Cindy Skrukrud, McHenry County Defenders/1075.70  
Lisa Haderlein, The Land Conservancy of McHenry County/1075.70